THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) During the VII Five Year Plan, the total approved outlay for adult education programme was Rs. 360.000 crores, i.e., Rs. 130.00 crores in the central sector and Rs. 230.00 crores in the state sector. As against this, actual allocation of funds for the programme was Rs. 549.04 crores, i.e., Rs. 353.17 crores for central sector and Rs. 195.87 crores for the state sector.

(b) The central assistance given to the state government of Gujarat and various agencies working in the State during the VII Five Year Plan was of the order of Rs. 19.24 crores.

(c) According to latest information available, the number of persons enrolled under the programme during the period in Gujarat was 23.94 lakhs as against the total enrolment of 403.33 lakhs in the country.

(d) Under the National Literacy Mission, the target is to cover 80.00 million adult illiterates by the end of VIII Five Year Plan which includes the backlog of VII Five Year Plan.

(e) Allocation of funds for the adult education programme during the VIII Five Year Plan has not been finalised so far. It may, however, be noted that statewise allocation is not made under the programme and funds are released to various agencies, including state governments on the basis of actual requirement each year.

Targets of National Literacy Mission in Tamil Nadu

6. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what target were fixed for National Literacy Mission during the Seventh Five Year Plan period and to what extent they have been achieved so far in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the State is lagging far behind in the field of literacy; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to step up the programme of educating people in the State under the mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) According to the information received from the State Government of Tamil Nadu, the coverage under the adult education programme during the Seventh Five Year Plan was 43.12 lakhs against the target of 46.00 lakh persons. Thus, the actual backlog in terms of enrolment, was only 2.88 lakh persons.

(b) No Sir, according to 1981 census, literacy rate in the State of Tamil Nadu was 46.76 per cent, compared to the national average of 36.23 per cent. In the field of literacy, the state already ranks 10th in the country.

(c) Attempts would continue to ensure still larger coverage of uncovered area and more illiterate persons under the National Literacy Mission by improving the pace and content of learning and mobilisation and involvement of larger number of teachers, students, educational institutions, ex-servicemen, employers, trade unions, voluntary organisations and other sections of the society in the programme.

Ecological Crisis in India

7. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an ecological crisis is believed to have gripped China, as per the UNDP report published in the Economic Times, dated 19th February, 1990;

(b) whether a similar crisis is likely to occur or whether it already exists in India; and

(c) whether Government propose to request the UNDP to make a similar study in India, starting with a study of Ganga Action Plan Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) A news report, 'Ecological crisis grips China' has appeared in the Economic Times, dated 19th February, 1990.

(b) Several preventive and curative measures have been initiated to control pollution and degradation of environment. If these measures are implemented effectively such a crisis is unlikely to occur in India.

(c) No, Sir.

Development of Computer Technology for Indian Languages

8. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the programme being envisaged for the development of computer technology for Indian languages, specially Sanskrit;

(b) whether some specific projects in this regard are being launched; if so, the outline of each one and when will they be launched;

(c) what are the target for Sanskrit-oriented projects to be achieved during the implementation of the programme; and

(d) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) Department of Electronics has drawn up a programme, namely, Technology Development for Indian Languages (TDIL) for implementation during the Eighth Plan. This programme covers Sanskrit also.

(b) A Sanskrit-oriented project, entitled "Computer Assisted Sanskrit Teaching, Learning Environment" was launched by Department of Electronics as a joint project at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi in June, 1988 and Lal Bahadur Shastri Kendriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, New Delhi in November, 1989.

A project on investigating the use of Sanskrit language for natural language processing was initiated at the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune in March, 1989.

(c) During the implementation of the TDIL programme, project proposals will be called for These projects will cover areas such as language learning system, computer based grammer and dictionary, knowledge representation schemes and natural language understanding system. These will be applicable to all Indian languages including Sanskrit. All projects taken up will involve targets for achievement and monitoring.

Apart from investigating the use of Sanskrit language for natural language processing, target of the project at C-DAC includes development of tools and techniques for Sanskrit Language processing in the Paninian Grammer framework.

(d) Does not arise.

Ninth World Book Fair

9. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ninth World Book Fair was organised